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The specimen in question evidently belongs with the tribe Corypheæ, and its nearest living allies are to be looked for in the genera *Trithrinax*, *Copernicia*, *Thrinax* or *Serenæa* (*Sabal*). The imperfect condition of our specimen does not admit of accurate comparison, but there seems to be but little doubt that it is allied to this group, and as we find associated with it leaves of trees which demonstrate that they were the ancestors of our living *Liriodendron*, *Platanus*, *Sassafras*, etc., we are certainly within the bounds of reason when we infer that we have here one of the ancestors of our Southern "Palmetto," as I have indicated in the generic name. The specific name has been adopted in honor of Prof. Jas. F. Kemp, of Columbia College, to whom the credit for finding the specimen is due.

Serenopsis, N. Gen.

Leaves small, fan-shaped, deeply pinnatifid, palmately about 18 divided. Rays tapering to acute tips and broadening into blunt wedge-shaped bases.

SERENOPSIS KEMPII. Leaves circular or sub-cordate in outline, somewhat longer than broad, 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Rays radiating in all directions from the sub-triangular apex of the petiole; confluent for a distance of about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the petiole, then divergent; central ones about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, outer (lower) ones about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; average width about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch; margins entire (?); nervation obscure.

Only a single specimen was found. The two figures represent counterparts of the same one.

Botanical Notes.

Scabiosa australis, Wulf.—Mr. Redfield will find on page 46 of the Cayuga Flora a statement of the thorough establishment of *Scabiosa australis*, not only near Farley's Point, Cayuga Lake, but all along the lake shore meadows of Union Springs for five miles. Moreover, a full description of the species is given in the Flora, and the date of its first discovery (the first in America, probably), viz., 1881; also a reference to the possible dissemination of it from the little botanic garden of David Thomas, civil engineer and

clever naturalist, who, with other members of the Society of Friends, made their home in this very locality over eighty years ago. He was the author of *Ulmus racemosa*, a characteristic tree of Central New York. In the herbarium of J. J. Thomas the writer found a specimen of this *Scabiosa* collected from the garden of David Thomas nearly seventy years since. There is no question but that the weed has come to stay. It forms a turf of its own in favorable localities, and is more abundant about Union Springs than ten years ago. I have since found it in the township of Montezuma, twenty miles north.

L. S. JR. UNIVERSITY, PALO ALTO.

W. R. DUDLEY.

Amarantus blitoides, Watson.—Mr. Lighthipe's note in the February BULLETIN announcing the occurrence of *Amarantus blitoides* in New Jersey within the "one hundred mile limit," prompts me to say that this species is well established within the corporate limits of New York city. It is to be found along the Hudson River Railroad track about Kingsbridge, Mount St. Vincent and Fort Washington, and doubtless at other points even nearer to the city proper. It grows on the gravelly road-bed, sometimes even between the rails, and on the adjoining embankments.

EUGENE P. BICKNELL.

Death of Dr. Vasey.—Dr. George Vasey, Botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture, died at his home in Washington, D. C., after a brief illness, on March 4th, in his seventy-first year. Dr. Vasey's acquaintance with North American Grasses was probably unequalled by that of any living botanist. All the later years of his life have been devoted to their study, and his publications upon them have been numerous and varied. A sketch of his life will appear in a subsequent issue of the BULLETIN.

Dr. Vasey is succeeded by Mr. F. V. Coville, who has been for several years his assistant, and no better choice could have been made in filling the position left vacant. Mr. Coville brings to the post the enthusiasm and activity of youth, high botanical sagacity, tact, a capital scientific education and good administrative ability. He will well represent American Science both here and abroad.